

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 ORM-02 /010 R

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AF/W - MR. LOLLIS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 000182

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: CVIS, SREF, NI, CB

SUBJECT: INDOCHINA REFUGEE REQUESTS FOR NIGERIAN VISAS

REF: LAGOS 12825

1. VERY MUCH APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S REPORT CONCERNING STATUS OF UM SIM'S VISA APPLICATION. WHEN CONTACTED AND APPRISED OF CONTENTS OF REFTEL, UM SIM STATED FIRMLY THAT HE DID NOT VOLUNTEER HIS PASSPORT OR APPLY FOR A NIGERIAN VISA USING HIS OLD DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT. SCENARIO AS DESCRIBED BY UM SIM WENT IN FOLLOWING MANNER. UM SIM APPROACHED THE NIGERIAN CONSULATE GENERAL ON NOV. 5 AND PRESENTED HIS US ISSUED REFUGEE TRAVEL DOCUMENT TOGETHER WITH PROOF OF EMPLOYMENT, ETC., AND APPLIED FOR VISITORS VISA. ONE WEEK LATER HE RETURNED TO THE VISA SECTION AND WAS TOLD THAT NIGERIA DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE REFUGEE TRAVEL DOCUMENT AND THEREFORE HIS APPLICATION WAS REJECTED. UM SIM CALLED THE THEN NIGERIAN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON, EMMANUEL O. OBE WHO SUGGESTED HE CALL UPON THE NIGERIAN CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK. THIS WAS DONE ON NOV. 28. QUESTION OF ACCEPTABILITY OF THE US REFUGEE TRAVEL DOCUMENT WAS NOT EXPLORED BUT CONGEN ASKED TO SEE UM SIM'S OLD PASSPORT, SUGGESTING

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THAT HE AGAIN APPLY USING THAT PASSPORT IN ADDITION TO

THE REFUGEE TRAVEL DOCUMENT IN HOPES THAT THIS COMBINATION WOULD SATISFY LAGOS. IT SHOULD THEREFORE BE MADE CLEAR THAT UM SIM DID NOT VOLUNTEER OR APPLY ON HIS PASSPORT EXCEPT AT THE URGING OF THE CONSUL GENERAL. THAT PASSPORT IS, IN THE VIEW OF THE USG, NULL AND VOID AS A TRAVEL DOCUMENT AND HIS US DIPLOMATIC VISA HAS BEEN CANCELLED UPON HIS APPLICATION FOR REFUGEE STATUS.

2. THE EMBASSY'S INTERLOCATORS MAY BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING THAT UM SIM HAS ALREADY SECURED A GHANAIAAN VISA AND A MULTIPLE ENTRY IVORY COAST VISA AND WILL TODAY (DEC. 31) APPLY FOR A KENYAN VISA. IN THE GHANAIAAN AND KENYAN CASES, HE WAS ASKED FOR HIS OLD PASSPORT FOR PURPOSES OF IDENTITY ONLY. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRAVEL DOCUMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE000182
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AANTIPPAS:SJK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750452-0397
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760191/aaaaddaf.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SCA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LAGOS 12825
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDOCHINA REFUGEE REQUESTS FOR NIGERIAN VISAS
TAGS: CVIS, SREF, NI, CB, (UM SIM)
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006